

# Opening a Restaurant in Bedford



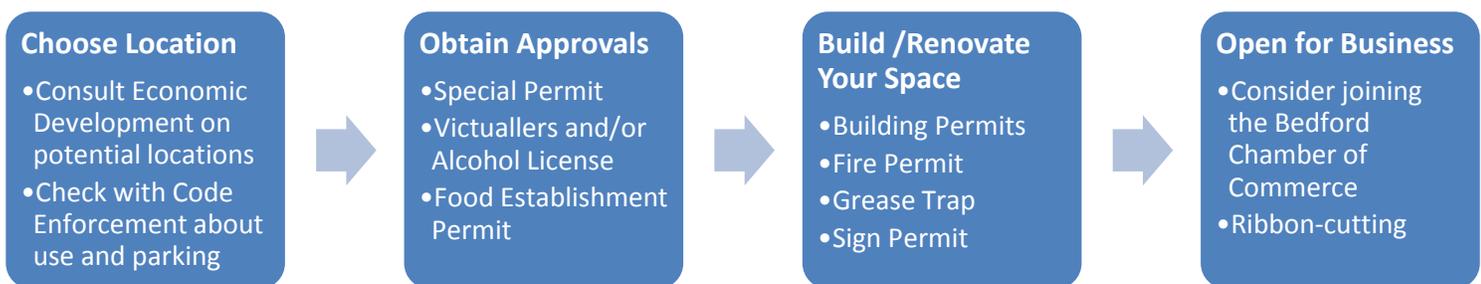
Bedford is a friendly New England community, which comfortably brings together its small town charm with a robust economy. Bedford enthusiastically welcomes new restaurants and benefits from having:

- Median household income **44% higher** than metropolitan Boston
- **Walkable** business districts in close proximity to major employment centers
- With a resident population of 14,329, Bedford's **daytime population** doubles with a workforce population of over 20,000 people
- **Large employers** including MITRE Corp, Hanscom Airforce Base, EMD Millipore, Progress Software, Instrumentation Labs, Middlesex Community College as well as many high-tech/biotech startups
- **Bike and pedestrian-friendly** home to the Minuteman Commuter Bikeway and over 16 miles of hiking and bicycle trails
- **Strategic location** which draws residents and employees from *Lexington, Burlington, Billerica, Carlisle, Concord, and Lincoln* on the **Route 128 /Route 3 corridors**

**To start:** Contact **Alyssa Sandoval**, Economic Development Coordinator, 781-275-1111 for information about **potential locations and assistance** with the permitting process. As with all communities in Massachusetts, starting a restaurant might involve authorizing the restaurant use in a particular location, obtaining applicable licenses and permits, and meeting health and building codes. The Town of Bedford strives to make the process as seamless and hassle-free as possible and understands your primary goal is to have a successful business that can thrive and grow.



Please see the following steps for guidance on the overall process for opening a restaurant.



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Please see detailed information below including department contacts.

- A. Consult the Code Enforcement Department for comprehensive information on zoning and parking requirements on any particular site. Restaurants in new locations require a SPECIAL PERMIT through the Zoning Board of Appeals or the Planning Board depending on the location. Speak with a Building Inspector about obtaining a BUILDING PERMIT and/or a SIGN PERMIT if your proposed restaurant requires interior or exterior renovations, including any new or remodeled signage.  
Contact: **Chris Laskey**, Code Enforcement Director, 781-275-7446.  
*Note:* Some new or expanded restaurants, including adding outdoor seating, may also require site plan review by the **Planning Board** or review by the **Historic District Commission** if located in a Historic District.
- B. Obtain a BUSINESS CERTIFICATE from the Town Clerk's Office if necessary.  
Contact: **Doreen Tremblay**, Town Clerk – 781-275-0083
- C. Apply to the Health Department for a FOOD ESTABLISHMENT PLAN REVIEW AND PERMIT  
Contact the Board of Health before (1) construction of a food establishment, (2) change of ownership, (3) remodeling of an establishment; (4) change in the type of food establishment or operation, such as adding outdoor seating. Some applications require 30-days for review.  
Contact: **Faye Andrews, Health Agent** – 781-275-6507
- D. Apply to the Selectmen's Office for a COMMON VICTUALLERS LICENSE if your restaurant has seating for diners on the premises, and for an ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE if your restaurant plans to serve alcohol.  
Contact: **Colleen Doyle**, Town Manager's Office – 781-275-1111
- E. Contact the Fire Department to schedule fire safety inspections for smoke detectors.  
Contact: **Captain Mark Sullivan or Captain Charles Stone** - 781-275-5266.
- F. Contact the Department of Public Works for grease trap and backflow prevention inspections.  
Contact: **Adrienne St. John**, Engineer - 781-275-7605
- G. Join the Bedford Chamber of Commerce for advertising and networking opportunities. The Chamber can organize a ribbon-cutting grand opening for your new restaurant.  
Contact: **Maureen Sullivan**, Director – 781-275-8503